

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2869

S E C R E T LUSAKA 0439

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR EGEN ZA RH

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH KAUNDA, SITUATION IN RHODESIA

REF: STATE 41702

1. CHONA CALLED ME LATE SUNDAY EVENING TO APOLOGIZE FOR FOUR-DAY DELAY IN ARRANGING APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA. EXPLAINED THAT SINCE THERE "NO DRAMATIC CHANGE" IN ZAMBIA'S POLICY ON MPLA RECOGNITION, KAUNDA'S SCHEDULE EXCEEDINGLY HEAVY, HE FELT THERE NO IMMEDIATE URGENCY FOR APPOINTMENT; THOUGHT WE COULD MEET TUESDAY, FEB 24.

2. I STRESSED URGENCY OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ISSUE. CHONA AGREED. SAID DELAY IN APPOINTMENT DID NOT MEAN TIME LOST AS SOME ORGANIZATIONAL WORK ON COORDINATING ASSISTANCE HAD ALREADY GOTTEN UNDERWAY WHICH KAUNDA WOULD EXPLAIN TO ME.

3. I TRIED TO PROBE ON RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS. DOUBLE-TALKING OVER TELEPHONE, CHONA IMPLIED HE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SMITH REGIME (APPARENTLY DEKOCK OR HIS SUCCESSOR) TO PUT CASE FORCEFULLY THAT IT ONLY MATTER OF TIME--"DAYS, NOT WEEKS"--BEFORE DECISIONS WILL BE MADE ON BATTLEFIELD RATHER THAN AT NEGOTIATING TABLE. HE HAD URGED RHODESIANS FACE UP TO HARD REALITIES

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RATHER THAN CONTINUE WASTE TIME IN MEANINGLESS SEMANTICS.

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Message Attributes

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